

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-03 PM-07 EB-11 /084 R

DRAFTED BY S/FW:PAWELLING/EUR/SOV:WDYESS:CR

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:JAARMITAGE

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CG:WANDERSON

USCG: CMDR WEBB

EUR/P:MR. JERABEK (SUBS)

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O R 072352Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO COMMANDANT COAST GUARD WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING SOVIET FISHERY SUPPORT  
OPERATIONS OFF UGAK ISLAND

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE MAY BE USED ON AN IF-ASKED  
BASIS.

Q. WERE COAST GUARD UNITS INVOLVED IN ANY OTHER FISHERY  
INCIDENTS IN THEPAST TWO DAYS?

A. YES. THE US FISHING VESSEL LADY LEE REPORTED OBSERV-  
ING TWO SOVIET VESSELS SIX MILES SOUTH OF UGAK ISLAND AT  
062150Z APPARENTLY TRANSFERRING PASSENGERS OR CREWMEN.

Q. HOW DID THE COAST GUARD RESPOND?

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A. A COAST GUARD HELICOPTER WAS LAUNCHED TO INVESTIGATE.

THE HELICOPTER PERSONNEL OBSERVED AND PHOTOGRAPHED WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE TRANSFER OF TWO PERSONS AND A FEW BOXES FROM A SOVIET TRAWLER TO A SOVIET PASSENGER VESSEL. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, WHEN THE EVIDENCE WAS REVIEWED BY THE COAST GUARD WITH THE US ATTORNEY AT ANCHORAGE THEY DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE THE MATTER. THE EVIDENCE WAS INSUFFICIENT.

Q. DOES THE USG CONSIDER THE MATTER CLOSED?

A. YES, THE MATTER IS CLOSED.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT THAT THE SOVIET SHIPS ATTEMPTED TO FLEE. IS THAT TRUE.

A. THE COAST GUARD HELICOPTER DROPPED A MESSAGE BLOCK WHICH WAS RECOVERED BY THE VESSELS INSTRUCTIONS THEM TO REMAIN IN THEIR PRESENT POSITION UNTIL A CUTTER COULD RENDEVOUS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION. BOTH SOVIET SHIPS GOT UNDERWAY HEADING TO THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST. THE HELICOPTER FOLLOWED.

Q. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

A. THE COAST GUARD SENT A MESSAGE TO THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET COMMANDER REQUESTING THAT HE DIRECT THE FLEEING VESSELS TO HEAVE TO AND AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE COAST GUARD CUTTERS CITRUS AND STORIS WHICH HAD BEEN ORDERED TO SEA TO INTERCEPT THE VESSELS. THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET COMMANDER REPLIED BY MESSAGE THAT THE TWO SOVIET VESSELS HAD ENTERED THE PROTECTED WATERS AROUND UGAK ISLAND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSFERRING AN ILL SEAMAN FROM THE TRAWLER TO THE PASSENGER VESSEL AND HAD NOT ENGAGED IN FISHERY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. THE COAST GUARD DISCUSSED THE FACTS AND THE STATEMENT WITH THE US ATTORNEY IN ANCHORAGE. THEY CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO WARRANT BRINGING LEGAL ACTION.

Q. DID THE CUTTERS OVERTAKE THE SOVIET VESSELS?

A. THE CITRUS DID OVERTAKE THE SOVIET TRAWLER. A CITRUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOARDING PARTY BOARDED THE TRAWLER AND FOUND NOTHING TO CONTRADICT THE SOVIET CONTENTION THAT THE VESSELS WERE ONLY ENGAGED IN TRANSFERRING AN ILL SEAMAN. THE SOVIET TRAWLER GOT UNDERWAY FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF THE CITRUS BOARDING PARTY. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, MEDICAL CARE, FISHING BOATS, ARRESTS, FISHERMEN  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE026196  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** PAWELLING/EUR/SOV:WDYESS:CR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740248/aaaabsru.tel  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING SOVIET FISHERY SUPPORT OPERATIONS OFF UGAK ISLAND  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US  
**To:** COMMANDANT COAST GUARD WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005